

# HOW TO THROW A WILDLIFE THEMED PARTY

Want to do something special for your wildlife loving child? Try throwing a wildlife themed party for his or her next birthday or event. Pick a party based on your kid's favorite species, or go all out and have a worldwide wildlife party and include species from a wide range of habitats. So jump right in and go ape to have a wild and roaring time at your child's next party.

## Jungle Party

If your kid is bananas about monkeys or loves tropical birds, jaguars or other jungle species a jungle themed party might be the perfect way to celebrate his or her special occasion.

*Decorations:* Use streamers, table clothes, balloons, lights, and other classic party decorations in jungle colors (greens, brown, blues) to totally set the scene for this jungle party. You can set up house plants all around the room and drape streamers to create vines. Don't forget to have animals in your jungle! Have guest bring stuffed animals of their favorite jungle species and place them strategically around the party area.

*Food:* There's no need to get fancy with your menu, you can turn every day foods into jungle fare by creating unique jungle themed names for it. At your jungle party a leafy salad isn't just a salad it's foliage; your everyday burger becomes a bonobo burger and chocolate covered raisins are actually bullet ants. For drinks you can serve up a tasty bowl of watering hole punch by combining 2 containers of frozen pink lemonade (thawed and diluted), one container of frozen fruit punch (thawed and diluted), and two liters of ginger-ale. And don't forget desert! A jungle is not a jungle with a little bit of mud, so for the perfect jungle party desert mix up a big bowl of dirt pudding. To make dirt pudding mix together 4oz of cream cheese, 8oz of cool-whip, and 6oz instant vanilla pudding. After that's all mixed together, crumble up one package of oreo cookies and layer the cookies and pudding mixture in a large bowl. Once mixed together gently fold in 2 (10oz) packages of gummy worms. Chill your pudding for at least 1.5 hours before serving.

*Games:* This is usually a kid's favorite part of any party. The best games for your jungle themed party will be those that are well known among most kids, but with a slight jungle adaptation.

**Jungle animal freeze:** This game takes fun elements from games like musical chairs and charades.

*How to play:* Have kids stand around the room in a large circle. You'll need stand in the middle of the circle, or just to the side of the circle, and play loud music. When the music is playing kids should dance and jump around to the music, but when it stops you shout out the name of a jungle animal and the kids need to make a pose like that animal. You can make the game more or less competitive by having a rule that the last person to make that pose, or if someone makes the wrong pose they must sit down until the round is over.

**Poison snake!** Poison snake is essentially “hot potato” except instead of a potato have the kids toss around a toy rubber snake.

*How to play:* Have kids sit in a circle and tell them that the snake is poisonous and they must pass the snake around to one another as fast as they can before they get bitten. The round ends when the snake is drop.

**Parrot, Parrot, Cockatoo:** As the name suggests this game is a jungle themed version of “duck, duck, goose”. *Note: if permitted this game is best played outside where there is more room to run and fewer obstacles to knock over.*

*How to play:* Have kids sit in a circle and designate one child to be the cockatoo. This kid will then walk around the circle tapping the others on the shoulder and assigning them to be either a parrot or a cockatoo. When someone is chosen to be a parrot they remain seated, however, if a child is chosen to be the cockatoo, he or she must jump up as fast as possible and tag the current cockatoo before he or she has a chance to return to the circle and sit down. If the child chosen fails to tag the cockatoo, he or she then assumes responsibility of the cockatoo.

**Animal Charades:** In this game of charades kids are allowed to act out motions of the animal, but they cannot make animal noises.

*How to play:* Create index cards with animal names on them, the child must then act as the animal until another child accurately guesses what he or she is supposed to be.

**Pin the tail on the jaguar:** This is essentially the same game as pin the tail on the donkey, however donkey becomes a jaguar to fit the jungle theme.

*How to play:* Print out a large poster of a Jaguar and cut out a strips of construction paper for the tail, and write the child’s name on his or her strip. Place tape instead of pin on the tail. Blindfold the children when it is his or her turn. Spin them around and point them in the general direction of the poster. Once every child has gone see who’s piece has gotten closets.